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SHUMAKER & SIEFFERT, P.A. 1625 RADIO DRIVE, SUITE 300 WOODBURY, MN 55125				
EXAMINER				
MADAMBA, GLENFORD J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

pairedocketing@ssiplay.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/824,276

Applicant(s)

SHAHER ET AL.

Examiner

Glenford Madamba

Art Unit

2451

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to remarks and claim amendments filed by Applicant's representative on September 15, 2008.

Response to Remarks and Amendments

2. Applicant's remarks and claim amendments filed on September 15, 2008 have been considered but are now moot in light of the new grounds of rejection provided with this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-10, 15-23, and 27-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Viswanath, U.S. Patent Publication US 2004/0019670 A1 in view of Kanada et al (hereinafter Kanada), U.S. Patent Publication US 2002/0194317 A1.

As per Claims 1, 15, and 28, Viswanath discloses a method comprising:

applying changes (e.g., Change Request) [0028] to candidate configuration data of a network device (e.g., Configuration Context 206a-c) [Figs. 11 7 47] (e.g., Test Case File(s) 400/406) [Fig. 11];

applying an implementation-specific configuration policy to validate the changed candidate configuration data (e.g., Verify & Validate Changes to Configuration Information) [Abstract]; wherein the implementation-specific configuration policy comprises a set of rules representing the specific operational requirements of the particular networks within which the network device operates; and

selectively committing (e.g., Auto Commit) [0079] the changed candidate configuration data to operational configuration data (Persistent Store 204) [Fig. 2] based on a result of the validation (e.g., 'Has data Changed?' _302; 'Yes' or 'No') [Fig. 7].

With regards to the claims, while Viswanath discloses substantial features of the invention, as above, the additionally recited feature of applying an implementation-specific configuration policy wherein the implementation-specific configuration policy comprises a set of rules representing the specific operational requirements of the particular networks within which the network device operates is taught by Kanada in a related endeavor.

Kanada discloses as his invention a method and system for controlling a 'policy-based network' [Abstract]. Specifically, Kanada discloses the additionally recited

feature of wherein the implementation-specific configuration policy comprises a set of rules representing the specific operational requirements of the particular networks within which the network device operates (i.e., Policy Server 103 providing a set of 'policy rules' for a router with regards to 'network functions / operations', such as QoS control, Access Control, etc.) [0040-0044] [Figs. 1-4 & 7-11]

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Viswanath and Kanada with the above said feature, as disclosed by Kanada, for the motivation of providing a policy-controlled network system which allows a single high-level policy to be converted into a plurality of low-level policies that meet the constraints of a device, and also allows a plurality of high-level policies to be converted into a single low-level policy that also meets the constraint of the network device [0009].

Claims 15 and 28 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claims 2, 16 and 29, Viswanath discloses the method of claim 1, wherein applying an implementation-specific configuration policy comprises:

identifying an error within the changed candidate configuration data based on the implementation-specific configuration policy (e.g., 'Warning of Error?' 436 → 'Error') [Fig. 12]; and

correcting the error by automatically altering the changed candidate configuration data in response to the identified error (e.g., 'Handle the Error' 438) [Fig. 12].

Claims 16 and 29 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claims 3, 17 and 30, Viswanath discloses the method of claim 1, wherein applying an implementation-specific configuration policy comprises:

identifying a warning condition within the changed candidate configuration data based on the implementation-specific configuration policy (e.g., 'Warning of Error?' 436 → 'Warning') [Fig. 12]; and

correcting the warning condition by automatically altering the changed candidate configuration data (e.g., 'Make the Change' 442) [Fig. 12].

Claims 17 and 30 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claims 4, 18 and 31, Viswanath discloses the method of claim 1, wherein applying an implementation-specific configuration policy comprises:

receiving a commit command (e.g., Auto Commit) [0079]; and

automatically applying the implementation-specific configuration policy in response to receiving the commit command (e.g., 'Change Valid?' 434) [Fig. 12].

Claims 18 and 31 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claims 5, 19 and 32, Viswanath discloses the method of claim 1, wherein selectively committing the changes includes committing the changes to the operational configuration when application of the implementation-specific configuration policy results in generation of a warning. (e.g., 'Notify Configuration API with Warning → 'Configuration API makes the change' 470) [Fig. 13].

Claims 19 and 32 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claims 6, 20 and 33, Viswanath discloses the method claim 1, wherein selectively committing the changes includes automatically rejecting the changes when application of the implementation-specific configuration policy results in an error (e.g., "If change is not 'valid' then the change is not made") [Abstract] [0028-0029].

Claims 20 and 33 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claims 7, 21 and 34, Viswanath discloses the method of claim 1, wherein applying an implementation-specific configuration policy comprises:

generating a copy of the candidate configuration data (e.g., Configuration Context 206a-c) [0026] [0077] [0080]; and

applying the implementation-specific configuration policy to the copy of the candidate configuration (e.g., Validate Change 458) / Change Valid? 460) [Fig. 13].

Claims 21 and 34 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claims 8, 22 and 35, Viswanath discloses the method of claim 7, wherein applying an implementation-specific configuration policy to the copy of the candidate configuration occurs via a Extensible Markup Language (XML) Application Program Interface (API) (e.g., Configuration API 222) [0024-0025] [Fig. 2] (e.g., XML documents) [0023] [0079].

Claims 22 and 35 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claims 9, 23, 36 and 37, Viswanath discloses the method of claim 7,

wherein generating a copy of the candidate configuration data comprises generating a version of the candidate configuration data that conforms to an Extensible Markup Language (e.g., XML documents) [0023] [0079], and

wherein applying an implementation-specific configuration policy comprises applying an Extensible Style Language Transformation (XSLT) script to the copy of the candidate configuration data (e.g, XSLT) [0023-0025].

Claims 23, 36 and 37 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claim 10, Viswanath discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the implementation-specific configuration policy comprises an Extensible Style Language Transformation (XSLT) script (e.g, XSLT) [0023-0025].

3. Claims 11-14, 24-26, and 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Viswanath in view Kanada and in further view of Watson-Luke et al (hereinafter Watson-Luke), U.S. Patent Publication US 2005/0114692 A1.

As per Claim 11, 24 and 38, Viswanath in view of Watson-Luke discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the implementation-specific configuration policy is user-definable (Augmenting of existing Validation Classes / Registering of New Validation Classes by Customer/User) [0017-0121] by a client (Client 10) [Fig. 1A], the method further comprising:

receiving input from the client (Configuration Context 'Input') [0026]; and

updating the implementation-specific configuration policy based on the input (Augmenting of existing Validation Classes / Registering of New Validation Classes by Customer/User) [0017-0121].

With regards to the claim, while the combination of Viswanath and Kanada discloses substantial features of the invention, the additionally recited feature of the method wherein the implementation-specific configuration policy is user-definable by a client, the method further comprising receiving input from the client and updating the implementation-specific configuration policy based on the input is taught by Watson-Luke in a related endeavor.

Watson-Luke discloses as his invention a LifeCycle Management Suite (LMS), which includes a data-store, server, file-based data, and configuration tools components. In order to manage the 'configuration' effectively, version control tools may be provided. These are applied to file-based data / representation of the configuration. These include basic tools for committing changes to configuration, viewing differences between configuration, and grouping configuration items, for version control purposes [Abstract]. Specifically, Watson-Luke discloses the additionally recited feature of the method, wherein the implementation-specific configuration policy is user-definable (Augmenting of existing Validation Classes / Registering of New Validation Classes by Customer/User) [0017-0121] by a client (Client 10) [Fig. 1A], the method further comprising receiving input from the client (Configuration Context 'Input') [0026]; and updating the implementation-specific configuration policy based on the input

(Augmenting of existing Validation Classes / Registering of New Validation Classes by Customer/User) [0017-0121].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Viswanath and Kanada with the above said feature, as disclosed by Watson-Luke, for the motivation of providing APIs that have the ability to create, update and delete configuration items in systems [Abstract].

Claims 24 and 38 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claim 12, 25 and 39, Viswanath in view of Watson-Luke discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the changes from a client associated with an authorization level; and
selecting the implementation-specific configuration policy from a plurality of implementation-specific configuration policies based on the determined authorization level.

With regards to the claim, while the combination of Viswanath and Kanada discloses substantial features of the invention, the additionally recited feature of the method further comprising receiving the changes from a client associated with an authorization level; and selecting the implementation-specific configuration policy from a

plurality of implementation-specific configuration policies based on the determined authorization level is taught by Watson-Luke in a related endeavor.

Watson-Luke discloses as his invention a LifeCycle Management Suite (LMS), which includes a data-store, server, file-based data, and configuration tools components. In order to manage the 'configuration' effectively, version control tools may be provided. These are applied to file-based data / representation of the configuration. These include basic tools for committing changes to configuration, viewing differences between configuration, and grouping configuration items, for version control purposes [Abstract]. Specifically, Watson-Luke discloses the additionally recited feature of the method further comprising receiving the changes from a client associated with an authorization level (e.g., Privileges / Access Level) [0208]; and selecting the implementation-specific configuration policy from a plurality of implementation-specific configuration policies based on the determined authorization level (e.g. Existing set of Validation Classes / newly registered Validation Class(es)) [0121]

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Viswanath and Kanada with the above said feature, as disclosed by Watson-Luke, for the motivation of providing APIs that have the ability to create, update and delete configuration items in systems [Abstract].

Claims 25 and 39 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claim 13, 26 and 40, Viswanath in view of Watson-Luke discloses the method of claim 12, further comprising:

receiving identification information from the client (e.g., Login Username / Password) [0017-0121]; and

determining the authorization level based on the identification information (e.g., JAVA Authentication and Authorization Service {JAAS}) [0197-0211] (e.g., Privileges / Access Level) [0208].

With regards to the claim, while the combination of Viswanath and Kanada discloses substantial features of the invention, the additionally recited feature of the method further comprising receiving identification information from the client, and determining the authorization level based on the identification information is taught by Watson-Luke in a related endeavor.

Watson-Luke discloses as his invention a LifeCycle Management Suite (LMS), which includes a data-store, server, file-based data, and configuration tools components. In order to manage the 'configuration' effectively, version control tools may be provided. These are applied to file-based data / representation of the configuration. These include basic tools for committing changes to configuration, viewing differences between configuration, and grouping configuration items, for version control purposes [Abstract]. Specifically, Watson-Luke discloses the additionally recited feature of the method of claim 12, further comprising receiving identification information

from the client (e.g., Login Usenam / Password) [0017-0121]; and determining the authorization level based on the identification information (e.g., JAVA Authentication and Authorization Service {JAAS}) [0197-0211] (e.g., Privileges / Access Level) [0208].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Viswanath and Kanada with the above said feature, as disclosed by Watson-Luke, for the motivation of providing APIs that have the ability to create, update and delete configuration items in systems [Abstract].

Claims 26 and 40 recite the same limitations as claim 1, are distinguished only by their statutory category, and thus rejected accordingly.

As per Claim 14, Viswanath in view of Watson-Luke discloses the method of claim 13, wherein identification information includes a password and a username (e.g., Login Username / Password) [0017-0121].

With regards to the claim, while the combination of Viswanath and Kanada discloses substantial features of the invention, the additionally recited feature of the method of claim 13, wherein identification information includes a password and a username is taught by Watson-Luke in a related endeavor.

Watson-Luke discloses as his invention a LifeCycle Management Suite (LMS), which includes a data-store, server, file-based data, and configuration tools components. In order to manage the 'configuration' effectively, version control tools

may be provided. These are applied to file-based data / representation of the configuration. These include basic tools for committing changes to configuration, viewing differences between configuration, and grouping configuration items, for version control purposes [Abstract]. Specifically, Watson-Luke discloses the additionally recited feature of the method wherein identification information includes a password and a username (e.g., Login Username / Password) [0017-0121].

It would thus be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Viswanath and Kanada with the above said feature, as disclosed by Watson-Luke, for the motivation of providing APIs that have the ability to create, update and delete configuration items in systems [Abstract].

Conclusion

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office Action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP 706.06(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Glenford Madamba whose telephone number is 571-272-7989. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Wallace Martin can be reached on 571-272-3440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Art Unit: 2451

/John Follansbee/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2451

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